

AmeriCorps Funding Crisis – Bulletin #7, July 14, 2003

The Michigan Nonprofit Association is holding a press conference on Tuesday, July 15th at 10:30 a.m. at the Detroit Lions Academy (1745 Hancock) in Detroit to discuss Michigan's AmeriCorps funding cuts. The public is invited to attend.

The National News

- **\$100 million AmeriCorps supplemental approved by Senate.** On Friday, July 11th, the Senate voted to approve \$100 million for AmeriCorps supplemental funding by a vote of 71 to 21. The vote underscores the bipartisan support that has emerged for the national volunteer program. Senators who voted for the funding acknowledged AmeriCorps' management problems. But they said the money should be approved so thousands of programs and community projects across the country wouldn't be shut down. Senator Levin and Senator Stabenow voted in favor of this bill. [Click here](#) for more.
- **President Bush announces his intention to name new CEO of CNCS.** On Friday, July 11th, President Bush announced that he will nominate David Eisner, 42, a former vice president of corporate relations at AOL Time Warner, to be the new chief executive of the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), AmeriCorps' parent agency. If confirmed by the Senate, Eisner will replace Leslie Lenkowsky, a former college professor who is resigning effective August 15th. [Click here](#) to view the CNCS news release. [Click here](#) to view the Washington Post article. [Click here](#) to view the Chronicle of Philanthropy article.
- The national web site, www.saveamericorps.org, continues to be a good resource.
- *In the news. . .*
 - Washington Post, Sunday, July 13, 2003 – [AmeriCorps, Making a Difference](#)
 - Philadelphia Enquirer, Wednesday, July 9, 2003 – [Alumni Rally to Save AmeriCorps](#)

The Statewide News

- On Friday, July 11th, the CNCS released new figures to State Commissions on how the Strengthen AmeriCorps Program Act will impact the cuts. The MCSC learned that Michigan's cuts would be reduced from 85 percent to 60 percent. Visit the [MCSC web site](#) for up-to-date information on how this will impact AmeriCorps members' service in Michigan's communities. [Click here](#) to view the CNCS news release.
- The Michigan Nonprofit Association is hosting a press conference on Tuesday, July 15th at 10:30 a.m. at the Detroit Lions Academy (1745 Hancock) in Detroit. Speakers at the press conference will discuss the impact of the cuts on those served by AmeriCorps members, specifically addressing the impact on Michigan students, schools, families, neighborhoods, and the environment. During the press conference speakers will release new data on the depth of the cuts. For more information contact Erin Skene at skeneeri@mnaonline.org.
- The Michigan Public Policy Initiative, a program of the Michigan Nonprofit Association, has information available on their web site at <http://www.mnaonline.org/americorps.htm>. For more information via email, contact Erin Skene at skeneeri@mnaonline.org.

The Local News

Lisa J. Pratt – Ann Arbor

In a letter to the editor of the Ann Arbor News on July 10th, AmeriCorps member Lisa Pratt said this:

“I am grateful to AmeriCorps for providing me with many experiences: serving families in their homes, transporting a child to her first trip to the zoo, accompanying a teenager to her first baseball game, helping two families obtain their first library cards and taking food to a family without transportation. AmeriCorps has also given me the opportunity to recruit volunteers for a new garden that will provide food for low-income families and to help in a free-food program that feeds hundreds of people every week. All of these lives, including mine, could not have been touched in this way without the AmeriCorps program.” [Click here](#) to view Lisa’s entire letter to the editor.

Background Information

Three issues are impacting Michigan’s AmeriCorps programs:

1. Michigan’s AmeriCorps program funding is being cut from \$6.2 million to \$2.3 million.
2. The balance in the Education Award Trust will not support President Bush’s call for 75,000 members.
3. A cap has been placed on the number of AmeriCorps members who can enroll nationwide.

These issues are a result of accountability gaps on the part of the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), the federal agency that oversees AmeriCorps funding, and the subsequent response of the U.S. Congress.